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15 December 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A008600420001-0

Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A008600420001-0

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Indonesia: The removal yesterday of Foreign Minister Subandrio from his post as deputy commander of the Supreme Operations Command (KOTI) represents a new gain for the army.

Subandrio has been replaced by a triumvirate consisting of Defense Minister Nasution, the Sultan of Jogjakarta, and Minister for People's Relations Ruslan Abdulgani, who will be responsible for military affairs, economic and general affairs, and socio-political affairs, respectively.

This reorganization had been rumored for some time. Subandrio had already been relieved of operational responsibilities in KOTI.

Subandrio still holds a number of high-level positions, including the Foreign Ministry portfolio and his job as first deputy premier. His removal from KOTI appears to indicate that Sukarno has come to feel that continued protection of Subandrio is weakening his own position vis-a-vis the army.

The military can now be expected to press for Subandrio's ouster from his remaining posts.

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UK-Rhodesia: [Britain is pressing for US assurances of substantial commitment to airlifting petroleum to Zambia, in order that an embargo of oil shipments to Rhodesia can be announced soon.]

[The announcement would be intended primarily for political effect. London hopes the oil embargo, coupled with aid to Zambia against possible Rhodesian retaliation, will win respite from African pressure for military action.]

[The embargo probably will not have much economic effect on Rhodesia because South Africa and Portuguese Mozambique are unlikely to cooperate. Current Rhodesian oil imports average about 38,000 tons per month and could be maintained by delivery of only one or two tanker loads per month via Mozambique. Even if a complete blockade were imposed on all southern Africa, South Africa has enough petroleum to supply both countries for about six months.]

[The UK estimates that it would take at least six weeks to provide an emergency petroleum supply operation for Zambia should the oil embargo result in the denial of supplies by Rhodesia. However, it is unlikely that the Smith government would deny petroleum supplies to Zambia until the oil embargo actually began to hurt, unless Zambia took some provocative action such as cutting off its imports of manufactured goods from Rhodesia.]

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Guatemala: The appointment of army Colonel Rafael Arriaga Bosque as head of military and civilian police in Guatemala may be a calculated gamble by Peralta to strengthen his regime.

Arriaga is a capable officer who might have some success against the continuing terrorist kidnappings and killings that are undermining public confidence in the regime. He has also, however, been a supporter of former armed forces chief of staff Miguel Ponciano, who has been plotting to oust the present regime. Any success he might have against the terrorists, although it would strengthen the government in the short run, would also strengthen Arriaga's personal prestige, possibly at Peralta's expense.

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*USSR: The Soviets have announced another area closure in the north Pacific, this one 4,400 nm from Tyuratam.

This announcement, made yesterday, will close the area from 16 December until 1 June 1966. This duration for normal ICBM test purposes is rather unusual and so was the announcement--it stated that tests would be made of a space vehicle landing system and that parts of the booster rockets would fall in the closed area.

While the Soviets always call their extended range ICBM tests "space rocket" experiments, they have not previously used spacecraft landing techniques as an excuse. It is possible that there may be experiments with water recovery of spacecraft or with new ICBM warhead delivery techniques.

The Soviets have had an unusual number of Pacific area closures since late last summer, [REDACTED]

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[* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.]

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NOTES

Dominican Republic: Strikes by government employees, triggered by Garcia Godoy's decision not to pay a full Christmas bonus, challenge the authority of the President. Garcia Godoy had threatened to dismiss any civil servant who walked off the job. Adding to the labor unrest are efforts by Juan Bosch and his Dominican Revolutionary Party to make political capital out of worker grievances at a US-owned banana plantation near the southwestern town of Azua. In a speech on 11 December, Bosch protested the arrest of 26 agitators and the government's use of troops to quell labor disorders at the plantation.

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Uruguay: [the lessening of tension in the domestic labor crisis appears to have eliminated for now the possibility of Uruguay's breaking relations with the Soviet Union. The threat to sever relations seemingly was used primarily to frighten Uruguayan Communists and to make them halt the protracted labor agitation for which they were in large part responsible. The government, however, may be considering taking action to limit the activities of bloc diplomats and to reduce the size of the large Soviet Embassy staff in Montevideo.]

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